



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 1: State & National Employment

Series 1, Issue 118

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Highlights

- ◆ Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector experienced its first decline in employment since July after losing 1,300 jobs in December. This job loss represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.4%. Despite this month's job loss, Virginia's HC&SA sector still increased employment by 9,100 in 2021, which translates into a 2.1% growth rate.
- ◆ Virginia's total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 12,300 in December, a gain that represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 3.8%. In 2021, Virginia's overall economy created 107,000 jobs. This represents the state's largest full-year employment gain in more than three decades.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector experienced its second consecutive month of relatively modest employment growth after creating 6,100 new jobs in December, which translates into a 0.4% annualized growth rate. National HC&SA employment increased by 233,300 in 2021.
- ◆ Job growth in the overall national economy also continued to slow down as national total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 199,000 in December. Regardless, the overall national economy still increased employment by 6.4 million in 2021, a gain that represents a 4.5% annualized growth rate.

Data in Brief

Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Dec. 2020	Sept. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,881.1	3,938.3	3,975.8	3,988.1	2.8%	5.2%	3.8%
National	142,503.0	147,855.0	148,752.0	148,951.0	4.5%	3.0%	1.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	440.6	447.1	451.0	449.7	2.1%	2.3%	-3.4%
National	19,928.3	20,095.7	20,155.5	20,161.6	1.2%	1.3%	0.4%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,440.5	3,491.2	3,524.8	3,538.4	2.8%	5.5%	4.7%
National	122,574.7	127,759.3	128,596.5	128,789.4	5.1%	3.3%	1.8%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather, holidays and other seasonal changes. Economists use seasonally adjusted data to reveal underlying trends over time. This series uses seasonally adjusted data exclusively. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series, or publications from other sources, it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



According to the preliminary data released on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector lost 1,300 jobs in December, a decline that represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -3.4%. This result also represents the first decline in Virginia’s HC&SA employment since July when the state lost 2,400 HC&SA jobs. Regardless, Virginia’s HC&SA sector still enjoyed strong employment growth in Q4 2021. Over the past three months, HC&SA employment in Virginia increased by 2,600. This three-month job gain translates into a 2.3% annualized growth rate.

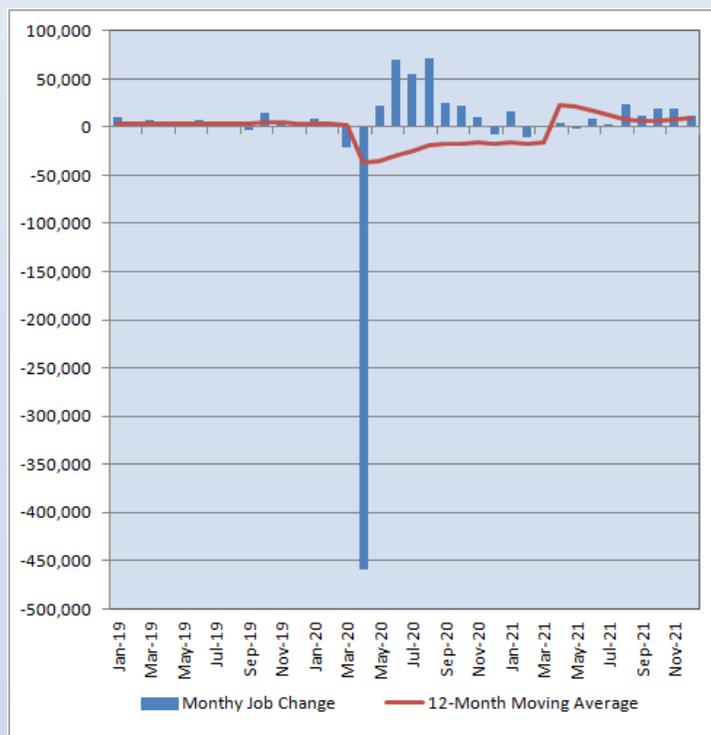
Virginia’s HC&SA sector is also enjoying strong long-term job growth as the state recovers from the large employment losses of the previous year. In 2020, Virginia’s HC&SA sector lost 21,600 jobs. However, Virginia recovered nearly half of these jobs in 2021 as the state’s HC&SA sector created a total 9,100 jobs during the past year. This gain represents a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.1%. It also represents the largest yearly job gain in Virginia’s HC&SA sector since 2017.

Virginia Employment

Despite the lack of job creation in Virginia’s HC&SA sector in December, the state’s overall economy still enjoyed yet another month of strong employment growth. In December, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 12,300. This gain represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.8%. December’s strong job gain concluded another impressive quarter of employment growth in Virginia’s overall economy. In Q3 2021, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 38,100. This translates into a 4.0% annualized employment growth rate. Virginia’s overall economy followed this increase with an even more impressive gain of 49,800 jobs in Q4 2021. This increase represents a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 5.2%.

Thanks in large part to this strong job growth during the second half of the year, Virginia’s overall economy enjoyed its largest yearly employment gain in more than three decades. In 2021, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 107,000. With this full-year employment gain, Virginia has recovered more than half of the 198,700 jobs that the state lost in 2020.

Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Non-farm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.



National Employment

Employment growth in the national HC&SA sector has slowed considerably over the past two months. At the start of Q4 2021 in October, the national HC&SA sector created 51,800 jobs across the country. This increase represented the largest monthly employment gain in the national HC&SA sector since February. However, national HC&SA employment grew by only 8,000 in November, and this was followed by an even smaller gain of 6,100 in December. December’s job gain represents a one-month annualized growth rate of 0.4%. Regardless, national HC&SA employment has still increased in each of the past 11 months. In total, the national HC&SA sector created 233,300 jobs in 2021.

A similar trend occurred with respect to the overall national economy as well. After creating 648,000 jobs across the country in October, the overall national economy produced only 249,000 and 199,000 jobs in November and December, respectively. December’s employment gain translates into a 1.6% annualized growth rate. Despite this slower growth over the past two months, national total nonfarm payroll employment has still increased by an impressive 6.4 million in 2021, which represents a 4.5% growth rate.

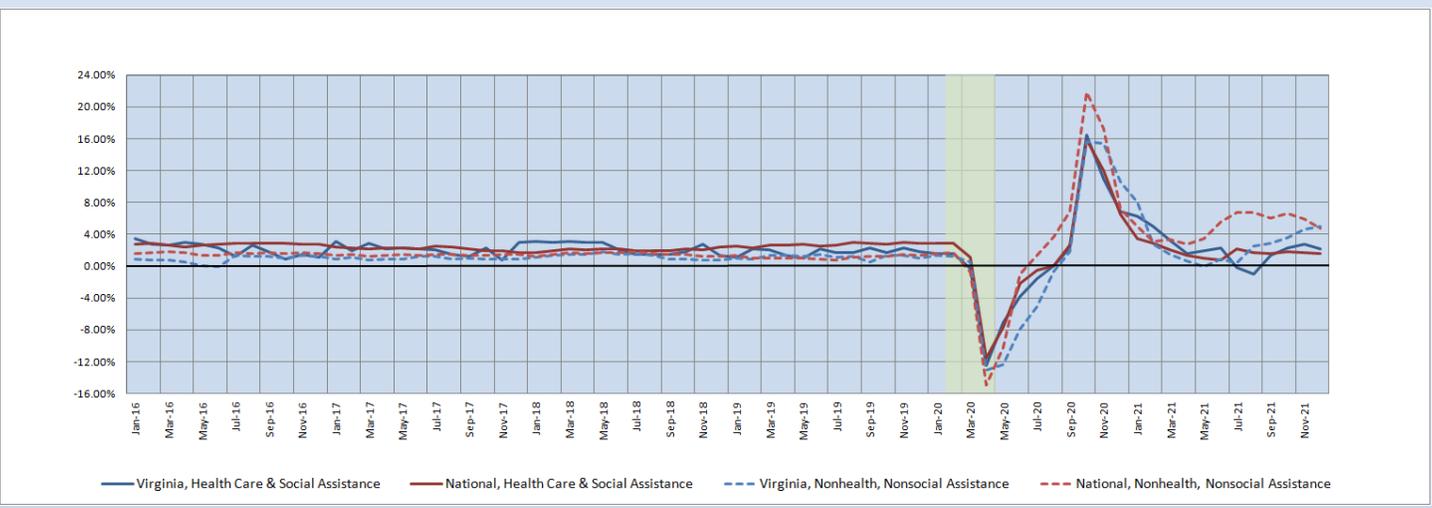
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

After losing 1,300 jobs in December, Virginia’s HC&SA sector saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average fall from 2.73% to 2.11%. Regardless, the six-month employment growth rate moving average for Virginia’s HC&SA sector still remained above 2% throughout the entirety of Q4 2021, which represents a marked improvement relative to Q3 2021. Meanwhile, the comparable moving average for Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll employment rose yet again in December after increasing from 4.67% to 4.92% during the month. On the other hand, the national HC&SA sector experienced a decline to its six-month employment growth rate moving average from 1.71% to 1.62%. This same is also true for national total nonfarm payroll, which saw its six-month employment growth rate moving average fall from 5.96% to 4.68%.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



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The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

The HWDC collects data on Virginia's licensed health professionals through surveys completed during the online license renewal and application process. Survey results and data may be accessed on our website: [www.dhp.virginia.gov/
PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/).

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Department of Commerce' Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs:

Series 1: State & National Employment (Monthly)

Series 2: Virginia Regional Employment (Monthly)

Series 3: Income & Compensation (Quarterly)

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About the Data

Data in this report are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses seasonally-adjusted data that removes seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations. This allows us to better examine underlying trends in the labor market. Data from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

Includes:

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

Does not include:

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
 - ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports).
 - ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
 - ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).
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